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neering Association of Nashville and the Iowa Engineering Society, to mention only a few instances, that the local Sections, backed by the parent body, can give a most helpful service in awakening a general appreciation of the financial and administrative importance of water works. If that recognition can be won, if water works problems can be left to water works specialists for solution, as a matter of course, the country will take a long step forward in the administration of public business. It is good to have the press with one, but it is best to have the hearty backing of the substantial commercial interests of a community. That backing can probably be obtained in many instances by demonstrating to these local Chambers of Commerce the importance of the water supply business which furnishes them with one of the essentials for their daily life, as well as protection for their property and livelihood.

JACK J. HINMAN, JR.

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR WATER METERS

At the annual convention of the New England Water Works Association held in September, 1916, a paper was presented by R. J. Thomas entitled "A suggestion that the Association appoint a committee to prepare standard specifications for water meters." In this paper Mr. Thomas pointed out that there was then no specification available under which meters could satisfactorily be purchased on open competition, and attention was directed to the inadequacy of the comparatively few specifications which had been used up to that time. As a result of this paper a resolution was adopted which read as follows:

> That the association appoint a committee to investigate the desirability of formulating meter specifications, and to standardize the nomenclature of meter parts.

Pursuant to this resolution a committee of eight was appointed by the New England Water Works Association, Charles W. Sherman, Boston, Mass., being chairman, and the writer one of the members.

Up to the termination of the World War very little was accomplished in the preparation of such specifications. Shortly after the armistice was signed, James A. Tilden, vice-president and general manager of the Hersey Meter Manufacturing Company, advised that the meter manufacturers' exchange, which includes all but three of the meter companies, had undertaken to investigate this subject and prepare as speedily as possible specifications which would meet the views of the manufacturers, and also would be drawn with a view to safeguarding the interests of the purchasers of meters. After a great amount of work had been done and many meetings and discussions had been held, Mr. Tilden was able to present in October, 1919, tentative specifications for disc and current meters.

These specifications furnish, in the writer's opinion, a very promising outlook for an ultimate agreement between the manufacturers and the New England Water Works Association committee on the more important and controlling items in the design, manufacture and performance of meters. The manufacturers are most anxious that joint action on this important subject should be taken by both the New England and the American Water Works Associations. The writer has requested President Davis to appoint a committee to represent this Association, and believes such a committee will shortly be named.

The desirability of there being one standard specification rather than two for water works equipment is universally acknowledged. It is now probable that by the time we meet in Montreal early next summer the members of the Association will have an opportunity to discuss the proposed specifications and aid in the formulation of the clauses that will express the views of the majority of the members.

W. W. Brush.

THE STATUS OF OZONE IN THE TREATMENT OF WATER

On another page of this issue of the Journal the use of ozone as a disinfectant in the purification of water is explained by Joseph W. Ellms in his characteristic clear manner. The paper deals carefully, very carefully, with the possibilities of ozone in water supply service. It points out the technical difficulties attending its successful use as a reliable germicidal agent, but it mentions only casually its cost in practical water treatment. It is these two factors which, up to the present time, have prevented any general use of ozone for this purpose.

It is possible that ozone will become a more useful agent in our work than it is today. Everybody whose aim is to insure the delivery of wholesome water to our cities at minimum cost will welcome every advance in the technique of producing and using ozone